RENEGADE News

Union & Community Summer School
Special Edition - Vol. 2 - 2010

RENEGADE ACTIVISTS ACTION FORCE

EDITORIAL RANT

Its been a big 2010 and Renegade Activists have been busy on many fronts: From anti-war actions, helping establish the *Melbourne Anti-Intervention Collective*, the *City is Ours* housing action group and the *Workers' Solidarity Network* with our friends, holding educational nights on a range of issues and a training camp at Camp Eureka. We've been active in Tasmania, WA, the NT and early in the year, Palestine; as well as earning our bread, raising our kids and still finding time to have some fun.

This issue is coming out for the Union Community Summer School, quite appropriately starting on International Human Rights Day, 10 December. So human rights is a focus of this issue. From attacks on indigenous communities in WA and here in Melbourne, workers in Korea and at home and of course, the ongoing war in Iraq; we've tried to touch on just a few specific flash points of what is really the same struggle. As we've said since we formed 21 years ago "*at the heart of every just cause is the cause of justice*".

But these issues aren't the only things we're working on: in the next 12 months we have a project to turn up the heat on the war, marking the fact that next year Australia would have been in Afghanistan for a decade!

On the positive side we're also helping work on *Eureka's Future*, a proposed workers' controlled alternative energy manufacturing business and, of course, the Union Community Summer School.

As I'm writing this on Wednesday night, word has just come in that Julian Assange has been arrested in London. The Wikileaks releases is leaving shit on many a government's face and our own Government is doing a David Hicks on Assange. So over the next couple of days we'll be working with a broad range of groups to organise appropriate responses to this latest case of Australian Government spinelessness. Here's a tip: I just spoke with a mate from Socialist Alternative and discussed trying to get a mob together to support Julian Assange at the Human Rights Day Rally on Friday at 4:30, a couple of hours before the Summer School starts: by the time you read this, you'll know how we went!

Remember the euphoria only three years ago when after working our arses off we finally got rid of Howard? Well I'm starting to feel like you do when you've woken up with a horrendous hangover next to someone who seemed halfway decent at the party the night before....but now you notice Soldier of Fortune on their side table and they offer you steak and a coke for breakfast:

Its going to be a hard struggle extricating ourselves from this one!

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WORKERS SOLIDARITY NETWORK

A perspective on directions in 2011

Liz Turner

This article was prepared in the lead up to the Union & Community Summer School, 10-11 December 2010, and draws on debates happening in the magazine International Socialist Review about future theoretical directions for Marxists and Anarchists. It also reflects on debates happening within the Melbourne Workers Solidarity Network (WSN).

One of the most significant debates happening across the left at the moment is about looking beyond the labels 'Socialism' and 'Anarchism'.

In Australia over the past 18 months gatherings and actions of Workers Solidarity Networks (WSNs) have taken place in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Wollongong and Newcastle. These WSNs have the dual task of debating Socialist and Anarchist organising methods, as well as debating the revolutionary potential of unions (or lack thereof), and what this means for the organisation of labour by Socialists, Anarchists and Communists. These debates are taking place on the fly, during workplace disputes and on picket lines, as well as at the pub and in other social forums.

The aims and objectives shared by all WSN groups in Australia are:

- To challenge Federal workplace laws that effectively outlaw strikes (except in an enterprise bargaining period, via a long-winded bureaucratic process); and
- To encourage and support workers control in workplace disputes. This includes supporting workers in sectors that are currently not organised in the existing union movement, as well as workers in union-supported disputes.

Many WSN members have experience in organising for better conditions in our own workplaces. Some members are employed in sectors that are not highly organised in the existing labour movement such as hospitality, taxi driving, IT design, and sex work. For those of us employed in these sectors, it's obvious that one of our key tasks is to initiate and support campaigns for better conditions in our own unorganised workplaces. But at the same time, each of the local WSNs are grappling in our own ways with the question of how we relate to the existing organised labour movement.

When debating and drafting the constitution of the Melbourne WSN, a decision was reached by a general meeting of members that the WSN would not subscribe to one particular 'brand' of Socialism, Anarchism, unionism or other leftism. We decided early on that we would not create another revolutionary party because the task of challenging Australia's draconian anti-strike laws is big enough in itself. We decided to be open and down to earth in the ways we communicate with workers in order to build our network beyond the usual suspects of existing revolutionaries. We decided we would focus on action, and debate organising tactics on the picket line itself, instead of in the abstract. We decided we would not be openly hostile or antagonistic to existing registered unions, because we are more interested in getting results.

But this emphasis on action should not lead to a situation where we stifle our own debate or remain silent on the question of how to deal with unions who refuse to organise workers properly in sectors such as taxi driving, sex work, or hospitality. It shouldn't mean we ignore the fact that many of us Anarchists, Socialists, and Communists are struggling with what it means to work together and get results, despite our preferred organisational styles (eg, central committee v consensus decision making, mass-movement organising framework v affinity group model).

In "Contemporary Anarchism: An Exchange", *International Socialist Review*, 73, Eric Kerl writes:

> "While it is quite easy to advance a perspective of amiability in the abstract, things are much more complicated on the ground where debates regularly flare up between anarchists, Marxists, and other activists about strategies and tactics (how should we occupy this or that building, what are our demands, should we act as a small group or reach out to larger numbers, etc.). Like it or not, political ideas and theory inform the different approaches."

It's to be expected that as we come from varied political backgrounds, some members have a political axe to grind and wish to steer the network in the direction of their own personal idea of radicality. In the past, some members have been inappropriately polite to the leaders of mainstream unions, while others have behaved inappropriately aggressive on picket lines with no real strategic impact, which has deterred some workers from wanting our support.

While I can't reflect on the experiences of other WSNs around the country, it is my opinion that the Melbourne WSN needs more of its own identity and a unified position on pickets. It doesn't matter that our members are from different political backgrounds. If we stay focussed on the job we are there to do – support workers in struggle, we can minimise the negative impacts of differences of opinion within the organisation.

In the Melbourne WSN, there is definitely a need for clarity on the role that mainstream unions play. In the Australian anarchist publication *Mutiny* #55, October 2010, Anthony Hayes, in his article "Against Capital; Against Work" states,

> "*Undoubtedly any move towards organising independently of trade unions, the state and capital should be encouraged and pushed... Without clear arguments that, on the one hand attempt to understand the limits of struggles within capitalist society, and on the other hand, demonstrate why such struggles must confront these limits, we will merely contribute to the disarming of those of us struggling for a world beyond capital and wage labour.*"

It's fair to say that so far, the Melbourne WSN has put more energy into workplace disputes that have taken place within the existing organised labour movement, whereas more emphasis needs to be placed on solidarity with unorganised workers. Network members agree that there is a whole new world of precarious work, one that is being pretty much ignored by the mainstream union movement. In the next phase of the WSN, it will be beneficial to work alongside the Unite union, which organisers workers in fast food and retail, and to initiate our own actions.

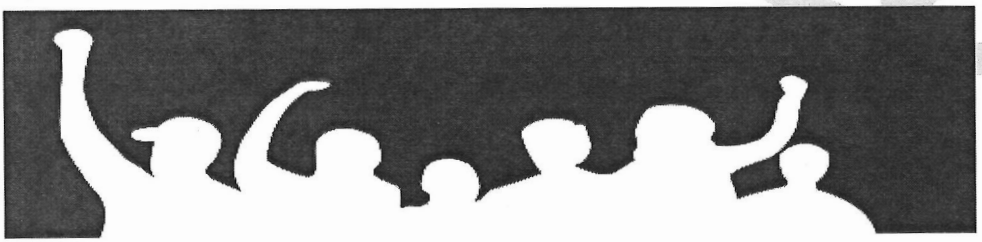
Dual organisational methods of the WSNs

Sidewinder on the Anarchist Writers website explains 'dual organisationalism' as the breakthrough between negative polar opposites in Marxist and Anarchist organising. The glossary in Marxists.org describes the polar opposites of sectarianism and opportunism:

> *"Sectarianism and Opportunism are the twin errors which may befall any organisation formed in pursuit of some principle. The Sectarian emphasises the absolute truth of its principle over any other, finds in every small disagreement the seeds of fundamental difference, see the most deadly foe in the closest rival, puts purity of dogma over tactical advantage, refuses to compromise or modify their aims and is proud of being against the stream. Simply put, sectarianism is the breakdown of solidarity. The Opportunist is always ready to adapt its principles to circumstances, minimises the significance of internal disagreements, treats even opponents as "the lesser evil", puts tactical advantage ahead of being true to its principles, is too ready to make compromises and is all too ready to follow the current of the stream... Naturally, real differences exist within groups and between different organisations. When these are fundamental differences, opposition and conflict is to be expected when a common course is attempted. The trouble with sectarianism is that it behaves as if fundamental differences exist when they do not; while opportunism actively ignores real differences. Thus, when for example Anarchists and Socialists attempt a common action, one can expect some areas of conflict."*

As Sidewinder states, dual organisational organising, when done properly, breaks through polar opposites such as sectarianism v opportunism by holding a balance of these two elements in dynamic equilibrium.

While each WSN has its own organisational framework, the Melbourne and Canberra WSNs have employed organisational approaches that are not entirely Marxist or Anarchist. The Melbourne WSN seeks to make all decisions by consensus of a general meeting of members. In the case of disagreements, members vote. An elected and recallable Committee of five people carries out the day to day tasks of the Network. This Committee has a lifespan of 6 months before rotation occurs, to ensure that no one individual or group of individuals become entrenched in a centralised role. The dual organisational approach has not happened without conflict, and the conflict highlights the need for debate and consensus on why the network operates this way.



Conflicts within the networks: the Canberra Bus Strike & the Melbourne Kennon Auto dispute.

The WSNs in Canberra and Melbourne have assisted in union led-workplace disputes . While both strikes led to vastly improved conditions for workers, WSN members in both disputes had extremely different ideas about how to participate in the struggles. During the strike by Action Bus workers, organised by the registered Transport Workers Union in Canberra, a dispute arose between two WSN members, with one member believing that another member was engaging in 'hyper-activism' working uncritically with the union, without enough thought or reflection on strategy. This led to an unresolvable split in the network, with ultra-leftist members unsatisfied at the other members' lack of criticism and complicit action with the mainstream TWU union.

During the strike by workers at Kennon Auto in Melbourne, organised by the registered Textile Clothing & Footwear Union, a WSN member defied the union secretary's request that WSN members exercise discretion and refrain from breaking the law in front of police, a request made in order to avoid massive fines for the union and the inevitable loss of the dispute. The debate that followed reflected a lack of understanding about the importance of strategy and appropriate timing of illegal activity.

The best example I have seen of functional unity amongst revolutionaries from different political backgrounds, is the Alpha Kappa (AK) network in Greece (www.resistance2003.gr/en).

Revolutionaries Working Together in the Alpha Kappa Anti Authoritarian Movement (Gree ce)

While members of the AK Anti Authoritarian Movement say that there is no other group in the world like them, their organising style can be used as a positive example for WSNs to follow. The network of seven AK groups across Greece give solidarity to workplace and community struggles by offering skilled support. For example, in June 2008 members of AK Thessaloniki travelled 700 km south to a refugee camp with a population of over 1000 at the port of Patras. AK re-connected the water to the town's main water supply after local government officers had cut it. Communists, Anarchists, Socialists, Stalinists carried out the smooth operation together, with no stuffing around. That same summer, members of different AK groups travelled to the island of Corfu to support a community protest against a garbage dump. The members of AK debate their organising tactics vigorously and out of necessity. They welcome disagreement and sort out their political differences in private, so that by the time they get to the picket line, all members know exactly what they are doing and why they are doing it. One of the things that enables AK Thessaloniki to do this is that they have a permanent space. This is something the WSN Melbourne is currently investigating.

In my opinion, as a formative and outgoing Committee member of the Melbourne WSN, the network needs to focus on the following:

- Debating to the point of reaching clarity and consensus about the network's relationship to the existing organised labour movement,
- Workplace solidarity actions with workers in unorganised & precarious sectors,
- Take advantage of our decentralised nature and train young committee members and others to lead disciplined and effective picket lines.

URANIUM MINING IN THE WA GOLDFIELDS

The Yellow Cake Road

Mia Pepper
Formerly based at Melbourne FOE, Mia is now based in WA where she is campaigning against the proposed expansion of uranium mining.

Travelling through the Goldfields of WA, we were moving through peaks of rocky outcrops, through valleys of spinifex and mulga, past mountains of mine waste, the sides of the road sparkled with broken bottles on blood red earth, like the blood spilt from colonisation and blood that continues to stain this country. On a recent trip through the Goldfields the new frontier of Australia's uranium exploration boom, we saw the all too familiar tactics of divide and conquer.

Native Title, the cause of widespread division in communities Australia wide, is nothing but a barrier to land rights. As cashed up mining companies venture in to the interior of the country with promises of a better life and resources/ essential services that the Government continually fails to deliver, communities are talking about sovereignty and customary lore.

The behaviour of companies in regional and remote areas such as the Goldfields is a menace to communities. Meetings are arranged during working hours so those in the community who work are excluded, meetings are held in some communities and not others creating division, certain people- not necessarily the right people- are invited to do site survey's creating division but more seriously, breaks customs and creates bigger trouble and feuding in the community. Brothers and sisters turn against each other, parents and children, cousins, aunties and uncles all fighting because of divisive and negligent behaviour from miners and government.

Communities in the Goldfields fought against uranium mining in the 70's through the 80's, the country left now with trashed exploration sites and trial mines, unfenced and radioactive. Communities have seen the failures, know the problems and remember the empty promises.

The Goldfields region is spotted with tenements by uranium miners, companies follow seams of uranium from bigger deposits, in doing so are following Tjukupta (dreaming) sites. The WA Liberal Government has not only opened the door to uranium mining in the state but is offering up exploration grants to help get them started. In the financial year 2009-2010 close to $1 million, of State funds was spent on uranium exploration in the Kimberley's, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Goldfields.

There are over 140 companies that operate in WA with uranium interests. There are 5 exploration projects in the approvals process 4 are in the Goldfields and 3 of them are in a 100km radius of each other. There are numerous other advancing exploration projects, like a wild fire the exploration for uranium in WA is out of control and hard to contain.

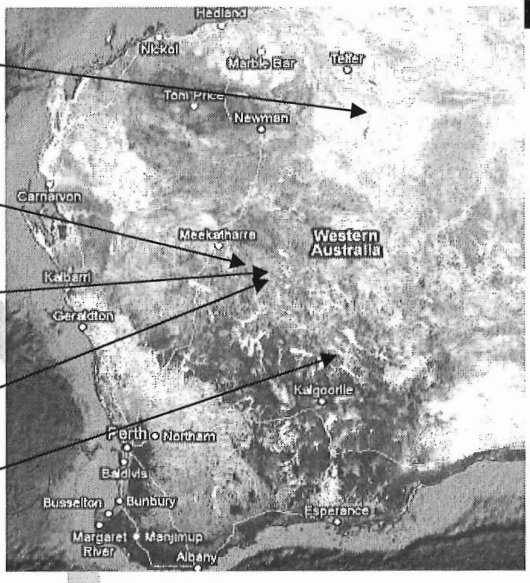
Kintyre- Cameco/ Mitsubishi, Karamilyi National Park Pilbara, Martu country (Formerly Rudall River National Park)

Yeelirrie- BHP Billiton, 80km south west of Wiluna, Wongutha Country, Koara tribe

Lake Way / Centipede- Toro energy, 17km south east of Wiluna, Matu Country.

Lake Maitland- Mega Uranium, 80 km south east of Wiluna, Martu Country.

Mulga Rocks- Energy Mineral Aust, 250km north east of Kalgoorlie, Wongutha Country.



The Department of Mines and Petroleum is notoriously secretive, if I had a dollar for every time I heard commercial in confidence from the DMP I'd have enough money to buy up all the tenements in WA- and just about every inch of this state has a mining tenement.

It is near impossible to find out what is happening across the state until a company makes an announcement to the Australian Stock Exchange. There are no public reporting requirements during exploration so it's not until a company engages with the environmental approvals process that the public can learn more about the project and write submissions on the proposals.

All of these projects aim to begin production between 2013 and 2015, in between there will be a state election with anti uranium mining Labor and Greens running against the pro everything and anything Liberal party.

This is far from a done deal but the impacts and effects of uranium exploration alone is an attack on the environment and communities that will take many years to recover. The best thing we can do right now is to get rid of the Liberal Government and reinstate the ban on uranium mining in WA and enshrine that in law.

For more information or to get involved contact mia.pepper@conservationwa.asn.au

THE WAR ON IRAQ

The Forgotten War of Our Time

James Brennan

Has been active in the anti-war protests since the beginning of the Iraq War and will be part of RAAF's turning up the heat in 2011.
Reminds us of what's going on over there.

For many Activists of my generation it was the 2003 Iraq war that politicised us, the final straw that made many people take action. I write this article in late 2010 in Melbourne concerned that it has become a Forgotten War. The feeling from being on those huge protests just before and after the war started was amazing. To see the images from around the world that others were doing the same you could really understand the power of the people. There have been many actions against the war since but obviously not enough I think we need to be reminded of the lies we need to reflect on the cost and plan for a future of freedom not war. Earlier this year at a war memorial in Brunswick I noticed it read Iraq 2003 – 2009; this was very disturbing. The Government has told the people that as far as Australia is concerned the war is over yet there are Australian soldiers still there working in the U.S army, training Iraqi soldiers and in death squads like Blackwater. 7 years after the war began we are told to believe that all's well in Iraq but this occupation has no end.

The Lies of the Leaders

According to the Centre for Public Integrity, the Bush (remember that guy) administration made a total of 935 false statements between 2001 and 2003 about Iraq's alleged threat to the United States. John Howard and Tony Blair became the lap dogs to Bush and followed along with every lie. Howard cared little for public opinion and instead made hugely unpopular decisions yet somehow kept getting elected. Every time a government sends countries to war THEY LIE we only need to look back at Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin incident. When President LB Johnson and the US government used false information to gain 'Legal authority' to go to war with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

The resolution served as LBJ's legal justification for deploying U.S. forces and commenced open warfare against North Vietnam. This time with Iraq the people marched in the millions before the war started shouting NO BLOOD FOR OIL we already knew the difference between the lies and the truth. Yet the war continues.....

Blackwater: Death Squads & Endless War

When Australian soldiers are fighting wars in the Australian army we have an ability to hold our Government accountable to their actions. It goes without saying that we don't think the state has our interests at heart, but we can still vote out Governments and to some degree political parties have to make sure voters are ok with what they are doing.

Now more and more we have corporate wars being fought by companies such as Blackwater these companies are unelected and accountable to no one. The American arms bases in Iraq are not going anywhere the geopolitical base that the US has established in the Middle East is parallel to anything we have seen before.

War Facts

Its hard to know how many Iraqi civilians have died, as US General Tommy Franks said in 2002 "We don't do body counts".
Yet a number of organisations have tried including:

Iraq Family Health Survey: **151,000** violent deaths. (June 2006)
Lancet Survey: **601,027** violent deaths out of **654,965** excess deaths. (June 2006)
Associated Press: **110,600** violent deaths (April 2009)
Iraq Body Count Website: **94,902–103,549** violent civilian deaths. (December 2009)

The financial cost of the war has been estimated at $3 trillion with $845 billion coming from the U.S and $9 billion from the U.K

Malnutrition rates have risen from 19% before the U.S.-led invasion to a national average of 28% four years later. Some 60–70% of Iraqi children are suffering from psychological problems. 68% of Iraqis have no access to safe drinking water. A cholera outbreak in northern Iraq is thought to be the result of poor water quality. As many as half of Iraqi doctors have left the country since 2003.

Iraq Veterans Against War

One of the major reasons the Vietnam anti war movement was so strong was the Soldiers resistance. The resistance was across the whole army and showed itself in so many ways from fragging of officers to the Hundreds of Anti war papers Soldiers put out. They collectivised themselves into the Vietnam Veterans Against War (VVAW) others were also members of other groups such as the Black Panthers. Today's generation have learnt from there history and formed the Iraq Veterans Against War (IVAW).

A February 2006 Zogby poll discovered that 72% of US soldiers who served in Iraq felt that the U.S. should withdraw within one year. As stated from the IVAW website:

> "The mission of IVAW is to mobilize the military community to withdraw its support for the war and occupation in Iraq. To achieve its mission, IVAW emphasizes three distinct goals:
> **Immediate Withdrawal;** Immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq
> **Reparations;** Reparations for the human and structural damages suffered in Iraq so that the peoples there might regain their right to self-determination.
> **Full Benefits;** Full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women."

Iraq Veterans Against the War has also passed resolutions opposing the war in Afghanistan, in support of non-violence, and opposing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.
To find out more on the Vietnam GI check out www.ivaw.org.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Geoff 'Hoggy' Guest
is a trade union activist who has fought in solidarity alongside Korean activists for years. He gives us a personal reflection on solidarity work.

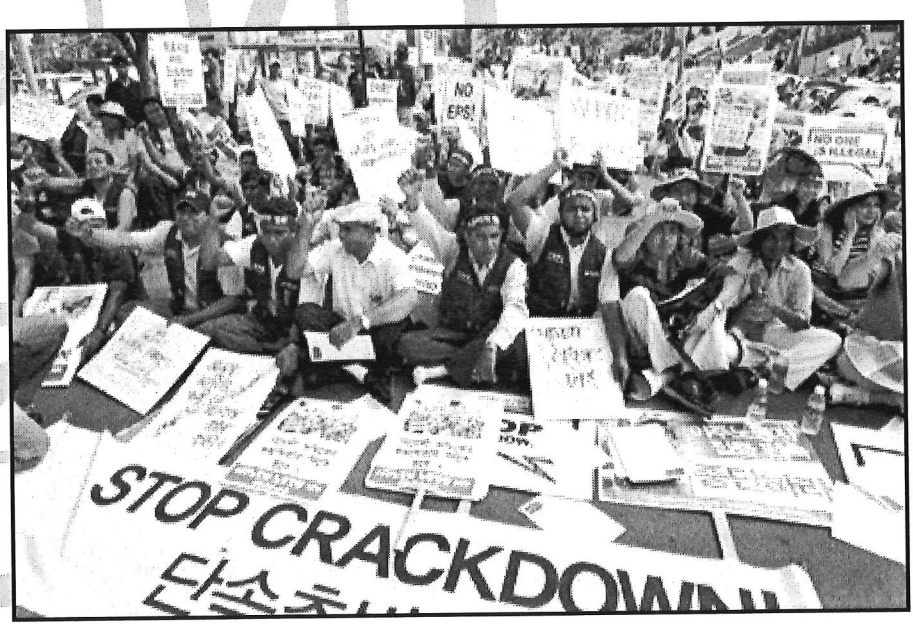
As I write this North Korea has bust bombed an island in the South and tensions are high all over Asia. I first visited South Korea in 1999 with some comrades from Australia Asia Workers Links and had really no insight into the country at all. It was on my arrival that I first met Reverend Jang, who was working for the Migrant trade union, he showed us many union struggles and introduced us to many union leaders and activists engaged in struggles of various kinds. My respect for the Korean trade union movement was gained on my first visit and the role of migrant workers with no rights has stayed with me ever since. I have since visited three more times, twice with my dear departed comrade Hippy (Graham Dusnsmiur) ETU activist and the last time with Peter Ong ETU QLD organiser as well.

The opportunity to give messages of support to people in jail, on picket lines and at meetings with unions is very important to people especially if they are in a long drawn out campaign as most struggles in South Korea are. To the workers involved who can feel isolated, it shows them that other workers from far away care about their struggles. I came to realise this fact when I received a phone call from my number one translator and sister Myung Sook Cho after Hippy died and then some wonderful e mails from some of the unions that Hippy had addressed while in Korea.

This reinforced my belief that International Solidarity is best served when you actually connect and extend your activist family on a personal level. My Korean family is always in my thoughts and I also had the honour of helping to look after professor Sung Ho Park for ten months while he was studying in Australia and my brother Jang's daughter Jun . This is the key to real solidarity when you stay with people in another country and really get to know them on a personal basis. The other person at the Osan migrant workers centre is Reverend Jones who is a Filipino priest who helps his Filipino migrant workers on a daily basis. Reverend Jang's wife Reverend Oh looks after the children of the migrant workers and feeds them and teaches them Korean and computer skills from early in the morning until late at night. The centre also has computers for migrant workers to keep in touch with their families, as well they feed many poor people in Osan.

On our last visit they had also set up a green recycling centre which employed poor people. They also organised a container load of computers to be sent to poor children in Africa and a small stall which received second hand furniture that they distributed to poor local people. Recently they have also opened a women's migrant centre.

On my travels I have also visited Thailand, Malaysia and Venezuela, all of which I have made lifelong friends in those countries. So anyone who reads this should get an idea of the great thrill it is to do solidarity work and the comrades that you meet will have a lasting effect on you as a person. Let me finish on a bright note, Hippy played music for our comrades at Kiryong Electronics to celebrate their 1,000 days on the picket after being sacked for forming a real union on site. The ten remaining workers have just been re instated after 1,900 days on the picket line. In this time they were bashed by thugs, riot police and the shop steward and co delegate went on a huger strike for 90 days. Victory must be so good after all this time. As the Koreans say Join Together Struggle. "TOO JANG".



THE INTERVENTION IN MELBOURNE

Joe Lorback
is one of the founding members of the Melbourne Anti Intervention Collective (MAIC) which was set up to act in solidarity with indigenous people fighting the Federal Government's Northern Territory Intervention. A project so inherently racist that the Federal Government (Libs, then Labs) had to suspend the Anti-Discrimination Act to pursue it. In an act of intergubernatorial solidarity, the State Governement (Labs, then Libs) are bringing racist policies to Melbourne.

While primary and secondary school students around Victoria eagerly await the beginning of their summer holidays, students at Ballerrt Mooroop College (BMC), the only Aboriginal school in the state, are maintaining a 'sit-in' and preparing for a picket to prevent their hall and gymnasium being bulldozed later this month.

The attack on the College is one of the most disgusting attempts at assimilation this state has experienced. The tactics of divide and rule being employed by the State Government are to pit two oppressed minority groups against each other with the desired end result of replacing the last Aboriginal school with the Glenroy Specialist School which has been granted $18 million in funding and will cater for 150 of the most disabled students in the state.

While the funding achievement of Glenroy Specialist School is something that should be celebrated, the State Government has actively chosen to build the carpark for the much needed school on the site of another disadvantaged school, in what can only be understood as an attempt to deny the last Aboriginal school an opportunity at defence.

Broadmeadows Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Spokesperson Gary Murray pointed out that there is no shortage of spaces for the Specialist School in Glenroy such as the vacated site of Glenroy Primary School or the current site of the Specialist School which is owned by Yooralla.

Instead the plan is to literally bulldoze the BMC's hall and gymnasium and reduce the school to two portable buildings.

"You can't build a mansion and then build a humpy next door," said spokesman Gary Murray.

"We want at least one Aboriginal school in Melbourne. They are trying to assimilate our kids into big melting-pot schools, but it's not working and our kids are dropping out."

This attack on the last Aboriginal school in Victoria follows the racist trajectory of the Brumby Government which has included all funding for Reconciliation Victoria cut, the MAYSAR gym battling for promised funding for a lift, and the attempt to clear Aboriginal locals from Smith St with Law 8.

While nationally the wider attempt at assimilation with the Northern Territory Intervention and promotion of Noel Pearson has created an environment of increased racism towards Aboriginal people and culture.

It is critical that in this first community action against the incoming Bailleu State Government we rally all possible forces to defend the school and denounce the racist divide and rule tactics.

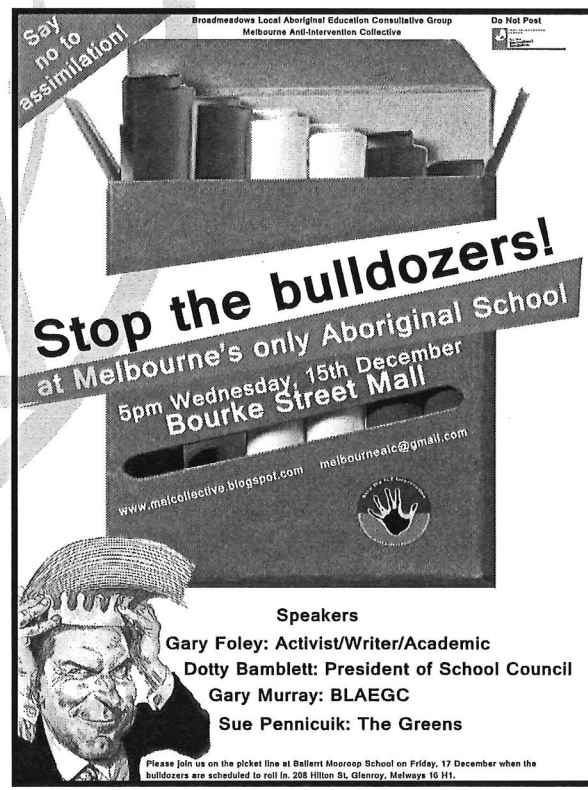
Finally some fighting words from Ray Kennedy, Chairperson of the Tati Tati Aboriginal Corporation:

'Is this the way of keeping the chains around our necks, arms and legs? Do we the most peaceful race of people on earth have to resort to military tactics to protect and preserve our meagre existance doled out by the whiteman - one mangy bread scap at a time? No, of course not!

'Good always overcomes evil and this is nothing more than evil intentions against all the black brothers and sisters, so stand strong and proud and beat (them)'

The Ballerrt Mooroop College is located in 208 Hilton St Glenroy get down and show your solidarity with these kids forced to undertake radical struggle in order to receive the basic right to a decent education.

This Sunday 12 December there will be school concert and community day at the school from 10am. On Wednesday 15 December there will be a protest in the Bourke St Mall from 5pm. And on Friday 17 December from 6am a picket will be held at the school to physically defend the hall and gymnasium from the bulldozers scheduled to destroy them that morning.


Say no to assimilation!
Broadmeadows Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
Melbourne Anti-Intervention Collective
Do Not Post
Stop the bulldozers!
at Melbourne's only Aboriginal School
5pm Wednesday, 15th December
Bourke Street Mall
www.maicollective.blogspot.com
melbournealc@gmail.com
Speakers
Gary Foley: Activist/Writer/Academic
Dotty Bamblett: President of School Council
Gary Murray: BLAEGC
Sue Pennicuik: The Greens
Please join us on the picket line at Ballert Mooroop School on Friday, 17 December when the bulldozers are scheduled to roll in. 208 Hilton St, Glenroy, Melways 16 H1.

MAIC meets each Monday evening at Trades Hall

WHY WORKERS MUST WORK HARDER PRODUCE MORE AND ASK FOR LESS

Leon Rosselson

So that the wheels
So that the wheels may continue
So that the wheels may continue to turn
So that the wheels may turn
Hours into ashes, days into dust, seasons into stone.
So that the turners of the wheels may die of boredom every day, every day,
Until one day they die of boredom.
So that old age pensioners may feast on cardboard sandwiches and flasks of cough medicine
So that our pensions may be protected against inflation by investments in Cancer Incorporated.
So that the dust may drift.
So that Bernard Levin may lay his moderately well formed turds on the graveyard pages of the Times.
So that children's heads may be marooned on high-rise traffic islands.
So that we may all join the equal opportunity queues to be tranquilised, barbiturised, amphetamised,
hypnotised, exorcised, Lymbolised, expurgated, tabulated, regulated, stamped and sedated.
So that the Archbishop of Canterbury may stir the teacup of the soul with the silver spoon of God.
So that money-lenders may lend money to pay interest on money borrowed from money-lenders to pay interest on
money borrowed from money-lenders to pay money-lenders.
So that the dust may rise.
So that we may be free to choose between Tuberculosis International and the British Bronchitis Corporation.
So that a regiment of redcoats from Butlins may lick our dreams into the proper shape for
knock-out competitions.
So that the ears may be filled with the din that the hands produce for eyes to consume
so that the heart may wither away.
So that oil-slick executives may dine out at Annabel's.
So that allotments may be transformed into concrete memorials for the dead.
So that the poor may dig dust from the earth for the wealthy to bury in vaults.
So that our children may have bank accounts.
So that the balance of terror may be maintained.
So that the dust may fall.
So that the meek may inherit the earth because they haven't the strength to refuse.
So that the lungs may be lined with the dust that kills
So that the blood may be choked with the dust that kills
So that the mind may be fogged with the dust that kills.
So that the dust may kill.
So that we may count the ashes until tomorrow, when, with energy, or after tomorrow, with determination,
or after after tomorrow, with a great national effort, or some time in the dust to come, when the stone is
ripe, our children, or their children, or their children's children, or their children's children's children
may -
if the dust -
know what it is -
if the dust doesn't -
to be -
if the dust doesn't get them -
Happy.